(b) In the aftermath of the Ayodhya incident and the Indian Airlines strike a Tourism Management Committee was constituted and in its meeting of 16th December 1992 under the Chairmanship of Minister of State for Tourism the following plan of action was decided:

* Effective publicity in overseas tourist market to counter negative image.
* Reassurance campaign through electronic and print media. Efforts to be made by overseas tourist offices, to pursuade travel agents/tour operators not to cancel visits.
* Visit abroad of high level reassurance delegations.
* Dialogue with High Commissions with a view to withdrawing /toning down adverse travel advisories.
* Special domestic campaign with concessions and holiday packages.

Hijacking of Indian Airlines plane

19. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Indian Airlines plane was recently, hijacked at Lucknow;

(b) if so, what are the details of the investigations made into the incident stating the security lapses identified; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The hijacker was carrying a small cloth bag in which he had kept his lunch box. He entwined white thread around two wooden pieces turning them in the form of table tennis balls and kept them inside the lunch box. These ball like objects were used later by him to project the threat of a bomb.

(c) The hijacker has been arrested and a criminal case registered against him by the Police.

Steps to attract tourist traffic

20. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH:
SHRI SOM PAL:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the violence that errupted after the Ayodhya incidents of Dec. 6, 1992, coupled with Indian Airlines pilots, strike, had dealt a severe blow to tourism this winter tourist season;

(b) if so, how does the tourist traffic and earnings therefrom during December, 1992 and January this year compare with that during 1990-91 and 1991-92; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to attract more tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign tourist arrivals and the estimated foreign exchange earnings from them during the period December 1992 and January 1993 as compared to the same periods of the previous two years are as given below:

Period Dec-Jan	Tourist Arrivals	Estimated Foreign Exchange Earning(Rs. crore)
1990-91 .	324,443	511
1991-92 .	380,573	771
1992-93 (P)	323,663	789

P : Provisional.